II. SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace paragraph number [001] on page 1, as rewritten below:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/469,980 filed May 13, 2003, now abandoned.

Please replace paragraph number [006] beginning on page 2, rewritten below:

Furthermore, it is desirable that such a postage meter system have the ability to update aspects of its operating software remotely via a communications system such as the Internet or a modem link to a remote control center. The communications system, as well as the associated postage meter may incorporate transmission techniques to assure that the communication of the data is secure. Also, it would be advantageous that, in the event that there is a need for modification of the operating software of the postage meter, [[that]] that such modification can be accomplished remotely by the transmission of signals via the communications system, instead of a need for recalling the postage meter for modification or replacement with a new updated model.

Please replace paragraph number [0021] beginning on page 8, as rewritten below:

For the payment of the postage, the postal facility 30 transmits to the receiver 34 an authorization for dispensing an amount of

postage for which payment has been made, the amount of the authorized postage being stored in a memory 74. The amount of postage dispensed by the postage selection circuit 46 is monitored by an accumulator 76 which sums the successive amounts of postage being dispensed. The difference between the amount of the authorized postage, as stored in the memory 74, and the amount of the dispensed postage, as provided by the accumulator 76, and subtracted by a ~~subtract the~~ subtractor 78 to present the remaining amount of available postage on a display 80.

Please replace the paragraph number [0027] on page 12, as rewritten below:

The invention provides for the advantages of hardware for a functionally secure postage metering system that can be configured as a web server. The postage metering device is secure and can retain multiple cryptographic keys. If desired, the metering device can be constructed with internal firewalls capable of servicing distinctively segregated multiple clients. The metering device has ~~been~~ the ability to capture data and maintain rating data for access by a remote control center. The metering device has the capability to perform high-speed cryptographic mathematics within a secure chip based environment incorporating multiprocessing subsystems. If desired, the metering device may be provided with scalable functionality for a postage-metering system wherein a client's storage means may be implemented and/or configured on site. The metering device of the invention also allows one to reconfigure software applications, in the field, securely, and to reconfigure hardware in the field.

3